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**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

A specific clinical protocol for use toward therapy of defective, diseased and damaged neurons in the mammalian brain, of particular usefulness for treatment of neurodegenerative conditions such as Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. The protocol is practiced by directly delivering a definite concentration of recombinant neurotrophin, into a targeted region of the brain using an expression vector. The neurotrophin is delivered to, or within close proximity of, identified defective, diseased or damaged brain cells. The method stimulates growth of targeted neurons, and reversal of functional deficits associated with the neurodegenerative disease being treated.